

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275252

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, ECON, RO

SUBJECT: OSKAR MAUSCHITZ CASE

REF: BUCHAREST 5709

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES TIMELY UPDATE ON MAUSCHITZ CASE PROVIDED REFTEL. WE WERE CONTACTED DECEMBER 16 BY MURRAY OF GENERAL REFRACTORIES WHO REPORTED THAT FIRM LEARNED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT ROMANIAN INVESTIGATION INTO CASE IS NOW COMPLETE AND THAT A TOTAL AMOUNT OF DOLS US 400,000 IS TO BE REQUIRED TO RELEASE MAUSCHITZ, APPROXIMATELY DOLS US 100,000 OF WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS "BAIL" AND REMAINDER AS ASSESSMENT OF "ECONOMIC DAMAGES." MURRAY SAID NEW ELEMENT NOW INTRODUCED WITH ROMANIAN ACCUSATION THAT OERMAG AND MAUSCHITZ ARE GUILTY OF "CURRENCY MANIPULATION." THIS IS A CHARGE FIRM HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE.

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2. WOLFGANG WICK, AUSTRIAN CITIZEN AND A SENIOR OERMAG

OFFICIAL WHO ALSO HOLDS POST AS VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL REFRATORIES, IS PRESENTLY EN ROUTE TO BUCHAREST WHERE HE HOPES TO MEET WITH DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE STANCIU. GENERAL REFRATORIES IS CONTACTING WICK WITH SUGGESTION HE ALSO TOUCH BASE WITH EMBASSY.

3. MURRAY EXPRESSED ESCALATING IRRITATION AND FRUSTRATION OF GENERAL REFRATORIES AT CONTINUED DETENTION OF MAUSCHITZ AND WHAT FIRM REGARDS AS INCOMPREHEIBLE ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT. GENERAL REFRATORIES IS SEEKING INTERVENTION OF SENATOR SCOTT WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE AND MURRAY SAID HE THOUGHT THE FIRM WILL ALSO CONTACT AMBASSADOR BOGDAN ON THE MATTER. HE SOUGHT FURTHER ADVICE FROM DEPARTMENT, EXPRESSING AS FIRM'S FIRST CONCERN WELFARE OF MAUSCHITZ. MURRAY ALSO INDICATED THAT IF GOR CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE ITS ALLEGATIONS BUT CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR DOLS US 400,000, OERMAG WOULD SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO TERMINATE ITS HITHERTO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ROMANIA.

4. MURRAY WAS INFORMED THAT EMBASSY HAS ENQUIRED OF GOR ABOUT MAUSCHITZ, THUS CLEARLY INDICATING US INTEREST IN THE MATTER. KISSINGER

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